procedure for grant of mandatory environmental clearance for industrial licences; and

(b) if so, the details of the new scheme and the main modifications introduced in the system thereby?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Government of India introduced new Industrial Policy in 1991 reducing the list of industries subject to compulsory licensing. Mandatory environmental clearance has to be obtained for 29 categories of developmental projects listed in Schedule-I of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 (as amended on 4.5.1994) before Letter of Intent (LOI) is converted into Industrial License.

"Hazardous Waste from the Mehsana-Ankleshwar-Bombay Industrial Belt"

2139. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the most hazardous conditions arising from the hazardous waste discharged from the Mehsana-Ankleshwar-Bombay industrial belt;

(b) whether Government have made any survey and obtained a report about the air and water pollution caused by this industrial belt; and

(c) if so, the details of the report and the steps taken for enforcement of safety and eco-friendly measures and to improve the environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The Gujarat State Pollution Control Board engaged National Productivity Council (NPC) for identification of hazardous waste generating industries and potential dumpsites for disposal of the hazardous wastes in order to avoid adverse effect on environment due to hazardous waste discharge from the industries in Mehsana-Ankleshwar-Bombay industrial belt. According to the survey, 1346 hazardous waste generating units were identified and they were asked to obtain authorisation of the Board. 1325 industries had obtained authorisation under the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 framed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Six sites namely, Vatva, Odhav, Ankleshwar, Vapi, Nandesari and Mardianagar were identified through EIA study. All these sites were notified for hazardous waste disposal by the State Government and are in various stages of development. Closure orders under Section-5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been issued to 21 defaulting units by the State Government.

Pollution Level in Delhi

2140. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any area-wise/zone-wise study and the extent of air pollution in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of rise in the air pollution in these areas/zones during a year;

(d) the major pollutants in these areas;

(e) the causes for failure of the various measures taken to control the air pollution; and

(f) the strategy formulated by Government to check the intensity of air pollution in the city making it virtually a gas chamber?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) The ambient air quality monitoring has been carried out in different areas in Delhi.

Even though there is an increasing trend in the ambient levels of pollutants, the average ambient levels of pollutants are found below their prescribed limits except in case of suspended particulates.

(d) The major pollutants in these areas are sulphur dioxide (SO_2), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO) and suspended particulate matter (SPM).

(e) Measures taken to control air pollution in Delhi could not show appreciable results due to increase in population, industrial activities and vehicular emissions.

(f) The Government has taken a number of steps to check air pollution in Delhi which includes the following:

Improvement of Public Transport System and introduction of High Capacity Buses.

Introduction of low sulphur diesel and unleaded petrol.

Implementation of standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage by March 2000.

Augmentation of Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) in the thermal power plants located in Delhi.

Enforcement of standards for control of vehicular emissions through State Transport Authority of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

Enforcement of gaseous industrial emissions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended in 1987.

Owners of vehicles are required to obtain "Pollution Under Control (PUC)" certificate every three months from the State Transport Authorities for which Government of NCT of Delhi has authorised 140 private petrol pumps to provide facilities for pollution checking, tuning of polluting vehicles and issue of pollution control check certificates for petrol driven vehicles.

Regular checking is being carried out by the Transport Department against the polluting vehicles through its mobile enforcement squads. So far, 59,775 vehicles have been prosecuted between April 1990 and October 1996 under section 190 of Motor Vehicles Act. In addition, pollution control check certificates of 1,49,497 vehicles have been cancelled during this period.

Started a programme of running battery powered buses to minimise vehicular pollution.

An intensive public awareness campaign is being carried out by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

Inclusion of Betwa River under NRAP

2141. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Betwa river in Madhya Pradesh is covered under the National River Action Plan (NRAP);

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the water the flows through this river is most polluted now, although a decade ago its water was clean;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the wastes from the distilleries, industrial effluents and domestic waste from Bhopal and the effluents from Mandideep industrial area are dumped into this river untreated;

(d) if so, the action Government plan to take to clean up this river; and

(e) if this river is not covered under NRAP, will Government consider bringing it under the plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) The water quality of river Betwa has deteriorated over the years due to rapid urbanisation and industrial activities in its basin. The river water is polluted due to the dis-